

T O P S E C R E T

IN 10175

TOR 25/2330Z FEB 66 CBM

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T O P S E C R E T 252252Z

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IMMEDIATE [] INFO IMMEDIATE [] CITE []

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[] IDEALIST []

FROM MR. CUNNINGHAM, ACTING

25X1A

REF: []

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1. RE SECOND SENTENCE PARA 1. REF, AND THE POSSIBLE PANIC EFFECT THIS COULD HAVE ON [] BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE AMPLIFIED TO INDICATE THAT, BASED ON INFO PRESENTLY AVAILABLE IT APPEARS THAT ARTICLE 342 WAS INADVERTENTLY OVERSTRESSED IN SOME MANNER IN AIR RE-FUELING FOLLOWING A DRY HOOK UP AND AFTER BREAKING AWAY FROM THE TANKER.

2. IT OCCURED TO HQS THAT "STRUCTURAL FAILURE" MIGHT IMPLY ALL MANNER OF HORRORS [] ADD OUR EXISTING BURDENS IN CONNECTION WITH EVENTUAL RESUMPTION TACKLE FLTS.

25X1A

3. IT APPEARS QUITE PROBABLE THAT WIRE SERVICES WILL PICK ACCIDENT UP IN LIGHT OF INQUIRIES ALREADY IN HANDS OF AIR FORCE HQS. WRECKAGE FELL APPROX 33 NM ON A 330 DEGREE RADIAL FROM EDWARDS TACAN IN FOOT HILLS OF SIERRA NEVADAS IN RELATIVELY INACCESSABLE LOCATI

PILOT TRACKED TO GROUND BY [] IN T-33 CHASE AND KC-135

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CITE

TANKER. PICKED UP IN MATTER OF MINUTES BY EAFB CHOPPER AND RETURNED TO BASE.

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4. RE ACFT STATUS; SAC HAS BEEN ADVISED. BELIEVED IT

UNLIKELY THEY WILL RESPOND BY GROUNDING THEIR PILOTS. GENERAL

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LEDFORD, PRESENTLY ON SCENE AT

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END OF MSG

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